

## AGENDA

Ride and Tie Board Meeting November 10, 2022 9 pm EST/6 pm PST

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting (September 29, 2022)
- 4 I am putting the chair of the committee in green, so please let me know if you have anything to report at the upcoming meeting.
  - a. Godfrey Sullivan Committee: Steve S
  - b. Nominating Committee: Lani
  - c. Vet Scholarship Committee Greg
  - d. R&T/AERC Committee Janice or Steve S
  - e. Treasurer's Report Steve A
  - f. Horse Awards Steve A
  - g. Publications Bob
  - h. Technology Janice
5. Ongoing Business
  - a. Equathon Rules
  - b. Non Binary Competitors
  - c. 2023 Board Member Elections Do we want to rethink the request for 10 signatures?
  - d. 2023 AERC Convention in Jacksonville Just on here to let everyone know planning is going well for the convention.
  - e. Youth Year End Awards Just on here as a reminder to keep our thoughts going on this as we move towards the end of the year.
6. New Business
  - a. Membership New membership form

Next meeting: December 15, 2022 9 pm EST/6pm PST

Ride and Tie Board Meeting November 10, 2022 9 pm EST/6 pm PST

1. Call to order - 9:02pm/6:02pm

2. Roll call - Greg Fellers, Courtney Krueger, Steve Shaw, Sara Boelt, Alison Zeytoonian, Rhonda Venable, Janice Heltibridle, Bob Heltibridle, Lani Newcomb, Steve Anderson.

3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting (September 29, 2022) - Motion: Greg. Second - Courtney. Motion passed.

#### 4. Committees

a. Godfrey Sullivan Committee: Steve Shaw - spoke to Godfrey, who agrees with what we are doing with AERC.

b. Nominating Committee: Lani - No updates. Actively trying to recruit from the west.

c. Vet Scholarship Committee: Greg - Melinda has sent out notices to schools. Deadline is January 15th.

d. R&T/AERC Committee: Steve Shaw - Presented requests to Mike Maul. AERC is not able to accommodate R&T requests for awarding horse mileage or for adding R&T search option to their online calendar. They agreed to the reduced compensation of \$1,500 to their national office. Contract for 2023 needs to be finalized. Sara made a motion to approve the agreement for 2023. Greg - second. Motion passed. Steve and Sara will get the contract finalized and signed.

e. Treasurer's Report: Steve Anderson - We need to be wary of spending due to drain on savings due to anomalies in 2022 (AERC partnership, 50th championship, and drop in market value). Discussion of spending cap. Sara, Steve A, Steve S, and Janice will work on developing a budget for next year and then present at the next meeting. Lani asked where our income comes from - store sales, sanctioning fees, donations, membership dues, dividends from endowment funds.

f. Horse Awards: Steve Anderson - Bob is working on this year's Horse of Distinction (HOD) statistics which won't be finalized until the last event of the year in December. Website needs to be updated to describe how HOD awards are calculated, Bob and Janice are working on that.

g. Publications: Bob - Is working on getting something out to Ride Managers with instructions on how to submit ride results electronically and thoroughly.

h. Technology: Janice - Discussed need to replace current custom app which is at end of life and incorporate new features similar to those offered by Constant Contact, Wild Apricot, YourMembership, etc. Janice reached out to Daniel (formerly Upstate Tech) to see if he could help. Daniel is not a developer, he is strictly involved with design. Edward (providing ad hoc support for our current app) could create a custom app possibly integrating with a cloud based software (SaaS - Software as a Solution, CRM - customer relationship management) such as Wild Apricot. There are major concerns with

- pricing for a SaaS solution (monthly, potentially \$110 - \$190/month) as well as a development of a new custom app (\$5,000-10,000?) which does not include hosting costs.
- Integration with existing WordPress website.

- Follow-on support.

An agreement following an hourly model would need to be established to provide ongoing support, including bug fixes and minor features, updates, and upgrades to protect both sides.

## 5. Ongoing Business

a. Equathon Rules: Rhonda, Alison, Carrie - Big change is taking out modified rules since it is not in alignment with any other similar relay type sports. Timing would be simplified in that the clock runs continuously from start to finish. As a vet, Greg supports these changes. Motion to accept equathon rules as written - Steve Shaw. Second - Greg. Motion passed.

b. Non-Binary Competitors: Rhonda, Alison, Carrie - There have been a few suggestions to remove gender categories, but the divisions have been historically used - originally it was M/M, W/W, and Mixed. Several options presented. One presented to change M/W to Mixed. Option includes a gender category "choose not to disclose", which would automatically put that person into the Mixed team category. Another option was to remove gender categories altogether, and just have awards for top three teams. Discussed if/how either of these options might work with our current database? We would not change anything in the past, but would change going forward. Plan is to implement new/revised gender categories by January 1, 2024. Before then, we need a cost estimate for adding "choose not to disclose" as a gender category and how annual points/ year end awards will be calculated. Alison will write up cost analysis and details of the three options available.

c. 2023 Board Member Elections: Currently bylaws say we need ten signatures for each person applying to be on the board. Should we continue to have this policy? If we want to get rid of that, we need to amend the bylaws.

d. 2023 AERC Convention in Jacksonville - just a reminder of the dates.

e. Youth Year End Awards - a reminder to think about this for next year.

## 6. New Business

a. Membership form: Janice - added new one-day option. Discussion on if we should continue to allow a free membership for the first year to first new members? Lani says it could be covered under advertising/promotion costs. Rhonda said no one else offers free memberships, but they do offer one day fees. Suggestion made to create automatic renewal each year and/or raise cost for lifetime membership. Janice made motion to delete free membership for first time competitors. Rhonda second. Motion passed. Janice made a motion to change fee from \$5 to \$10 for one day. Courtney second. Motion passed.

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Attachment - 11/10/22 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report - 10/28/22

Treasurers Report

1/1/2022 to 10/28/2022

Review of expenses:

AERC race stipends \$11,750

Insurance \$5,874

Champ. race banquet \$4,060

Newsletter printing \$3,847

Champ. site expense \$3,087

Website \$3,010

Newsletter postage \$1,768

AERC advertising \$1,510

Trade show booth \$1,068

Not accounting for funds taken out of savings, our income, various sources is \$23,329

Equathon Rules Committee

**What is an Equathon:** An Equathon consists of a TEAM of two persons (Rider/Runner) and one horse, or IRON consisting of one person (Rides/Runs) and one horse competing on a pre-determined course. ~~The Ride Manager must designate prior to the start whether the event will follow a Standard or Modified version. The length of the run must be at least 25% of the length of the ride (e.g., a 12 mile ride must have at least a 3 mile run).~~

**Standard:** The Rider completes ~~his~~ their portion of the course first before the Runner starts ~~his~~ their portion of the event. The Runner may start after the horse reaches pulse criteria taken by official race staff, but prior to the veterinary examination. The clock runs continuously until the runner reaches the finish line. ~~At their discretion, the Ride Manager may choose to stop the clock and time the rider and runner individually, adding the times together for the completion time.~~

• ~~Modified:~~ Team members (Riders/Runners) start together; Riders ride the pre-determined ride course while the Runners run the pre-determined run course. ~~The completion time is calculated by adding the Rider's time and the Runner's time.~~

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• ~~IRON Person:~~ Iron person rides the designated course first and then runs the second part of the course. The clock runs continuously until the runner reaches the finish line. ~~At their discretion, the Ride Manager may choose to stop the clock and time the rider and runner individually, adding the times together for the completion time.~~ They must start the run portion within 30 minutes of the horse passing the pulse criteria. Designated crew may present the horse for both the pulse and the veterinary exam.

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**Ride Time:** ~~The "Ride Time" is determined when the horse and rider complete their portion of the event and the horse reaches pulse criteria as determined by an official race veterinary pulse staff.~~

**Run Time:** ~~The "Run Time" is determined by the elapsed time from when the runner starts and then crosses the finish line on his portion of the course.~~

**Completion Time:** The "Completion Time" is when the runner crosses the finish line, calculated by adding the "Ride Time" and the "Run Time". In addition, the horse must PASS the post-ride exam meeting "fit to continue" criteria otherwise the team will be disqualified.

**Long Course:** Is combined rider/runner mileage of 20 miles or longer.

**Short Course:** Is combined rider/runner mileage of less than 20 miles.

**General rules:**

1. All participants must be current members of the Ride & Tie Association.
2. All minors under age 16 must wear approved safety helmets by AHSA, PCA, ANSIZ90.4 or Snell while mounted during a race.

3. Before the Start there will be an Agreed upon “Start and Finish line”.
4. The Runner (for both the Standard Equathon and IRON Person) must report to the event timer for the official run portion start time and follow the designated course.
5. The horse must be at least five years old. NO pregnant or lactating mares will be allowed to compete. “Horse” means horse, pony, donkey, burro, or mule.
6. All horses must be submitted for a pre-race and post-race examination.
7. All horses must be presented for a post-race veterinary examination within a half an hour of finishing. Horses must pass this examination for any member of that team to be eligible for completion awards and points.
8. If the ride portion is 20 miles or longer, there will be a mandatory hold ~~of 20 minutes minimum or longer~~ as pre-determined by the head veterinarian for the horse at any vet check(s).
9. **Horses traveling less than 10 miles** require only Pre/Post Pulse criteria and trot out abbreviated examination. Horses traveling 10 miles or greater require standard pre and post examinations.
10. Veterinarians will determine pulse criteria which may differ from Ride & Tie horses. Pulse must be taken/certified by official race staff.
11. All decisions of the Veterinarian staff regarding the health and safety of the horse including altering any horse related Equathon rules are final. NO abuse of a horse will be tolerated.
12. In alignment with AERC, no foreign substance or medication may be given or administered to any horse within 72 hours before starting or one hour after finishing the event. This includes ointments or solutions for topical use that contain local anesthetics. All medications administered during the two weeks prior to the race must be declared in writing to the veterinarian conducting the pre-race examination.
13. Riders shall be responsible for their horse’s behavior prior to and during the event. If, at the discretion of the race management, any horse becomes unruly or jeopardizes the safety of other participants, the team may be disqualified from the event.
14. Competitors must pass and report to any trail marshals who are positioned along the course. Competitors inadvertently off course must return to the point at which they left the marked trail and complete the course correctly.
15. Any protests must be made in accordance with the Association’s Protest Policy

Revised ~~October~~March 2022

## Attachment - 11/10/22 Board Meeting

### Non-Binary Committee Proposal

First was the topic of gender and how we include (and welcome) those who are non-binary or would rather not disclose their gender. Here is our proposal:

We move that the Ride & Tie Association change the 2023 membership form to allow members to not disclose their gender. The three choices will be: 1) man, 2) woman, or 3) choose not to disclose. We also move to change the man/woman division to mixed division. A member who chooses not to disclose their gender will be competing in the mixed division.

The following changes will be required:

- Change the hard copy membership form to add “choose not to disclose”
- Change the website form to add “choose not to disclose”
- Change man/woman to mixed throughout the website

We propose that these changes begin in the 2023 R&T season. No changes will be made to past statistics/points.

# Attachment - 11/10/22 Board Meeting

## The Ride and Tie Association Membership Form

Send form and payment to: The Ride and Tie Association – Membership, 6746 Back Rd, Maurertown, VA 22644  
Or sign up online at [www.rideandtie.org/membership/](http://www.rideandtie.org/membership/)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Annual membership runs from January 1 – December 31.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Please check box if an existing member and you are updating any information.

New	Renew	Last Name	First Name	MI	Gender
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>Street Address</b> (for mailing purposes):			
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip code:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	

	Yes	No
Do you want your contact information listed in the annual handbook		
Do you want to receive a printed copy of the newsletters (versus viewing them online)?		
Do you want to receive emails with updates regarding R&T news?		
How did you learn about R&T?	<input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Expo/Convention <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine/Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	

**Type of Membership:**

\_\_\_ **First Time Competitor:** (Complimentary) Must compete in at least one race. You receive all competitor member benefits.

\_\_\_ **Race Director for:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Complimentary - for the season in which you direct a race.) You MUST fill out this form and return it with sanctioning form in order for your event to be insured and sanctioned. You receive all competitor member benefits.

\_\_\_ **Upgrading from Complimentary to Family:** (\$15) You receive all family member benefits.

\_\_\_ **Competitor Member:** (\$25) Will receive Ride & Tie newsletter and handbook; one vote on Association general membership issues; eligibility for all sanctioned Ride & Tie events held during membership year; inclusion and eligibility for national points/mileage year end awards.

\_\_\_ **One Day Competitor:** (\$5) Will NOT receive Ride & Tie newsletter and handbook; NO voting privileges. Are eligible for national points/mileage year end awards.

\_\_\_ **Family Membership:** (\$40) Immediate family living at the same address. List all names (first and last) to be included. Same benefits as Competitor member, two votes per family.

\_\_\_ **Lifetime Member:** (\$500) Same benefits as Competitor member with no more annual membership fees.

\_\_\_ **Friend of Ride & Tie** (\$20 or more) Non-competitive member showing support for Ride & Tie. No voting privileges. Will receive newsletter.

\_\_\_ **Fall Special** (\$30) If joining or renewing on/after October 1, membership will be extended through December 31 of the following year. You receive all competitor member benefits.